Where the colonies of *P. farinalis* exist on our farm among old hay and straw, they are subjected from time to time to rain being driven in by wind, which provided enough dampness to generate small amounts of heat (as in a compost heap). We have observed that when this warmth exists the imago of *farinalis* seems to appear later, though of course this situation can go on continuously as bits of hay and straw are being added all the time by the farming activities of feeding cattle, and the rain is never enough to make the hay and straw rotten.

The point of interest is whether this heat is sufficient to encourage the larvae to speed up their growth in the spring, and then for the moth to be continuously brooded through to November, and therefore have the ability to make use of this warmth when available, and thus account for the records of its late occurrence as well as for that of *H. costalis*. Although these conditions are not altogether natural owing to human intervention, similar situations must exist elsewhere and it would be interesting to hear from others on the subject. – E. G. SMITH, Bullen Hill Farm, Ashton Common, Trowbridge, Wilts.

AGRODIAETUS THERSITES CANTENER: CHAPMAN'S BLUE IN MALTA. – *Aricia agestis* D. & S.: Brown Argus is a common butterfly in the Maltese Islands, where there are different forms, one of which has well developed large orange-red submarginal lunules complete up to the forewing apex and similar in appearance to *A. cramera* Eschscholtz. At Dr. Hoegh-Guldberg's suggestion I sent some Maltese *Aricia* to Prof. Dr. E. Balletto of Genova for examination as he was working on the Genus, and later received the result of his findings: all my specimens were *A. agestis* except one which turned out to be a female *A. thersites*. It was taken on the 17th June 1979, at Wied il-Ghasel, Mosta, and this may be the first record of this species for the smaller islands of the Mediterranean. I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Balleto for his prompt help in identifying my specimens. – A. VALLETTA, 257 Msida Street, B'Kara, Malta.

THAUMETOPOEA PROCESSIONEA L.: OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH ON GUERNSEY. – A single male of this species was taken in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at St. Martin's, Guernsey (Site No. 252, grid ref. 49° 26.2'N 2° 34.3'W) on the night of 18/19-8-83.

This capture coincided with a period of intensive immigration of Lepidoptera to the British Isles and particularly with the capture of another male of this species at Mawnen Smith, W. Cornwall on 19.8.83 (Foster, *Ent. Rec.* **95**:216). The Cornish specimen was stated by Bretherton and Chalmers-Hunt (*Ent. Rec.* **96**: 156) to be probably the first genuine British record.

Heath (*M.B.G.B. &. I.*, vol. 9) considers the British status of *T. processionea* to be "doubtful" and refers to Allan 1943, *Talking of Moths* for an account of larvae and pupae, supposedly of this

species, found in Kent in 1874 (Batchelor *Entomologist* **6**: 487). Until 1983 this was the only recorded incidence of this species in Britain.

Abroad, *processionea* is widespread in central and southern Europe. It feeds on oak and is occasionally recorded as being a pest. (Foster, *loc. cit.*).

Our thanks are extended to Wendy Angell who operates the trap at St. Martin's and identifies most of the specimens caught there. – A. M. RILEY, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Entomologist Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts.

DREPANEPTERYX PHALAENOIDES L. (NEUROPTERA: HEMEROBIIDAE) IN WEST SUSSEX. – Following our note reporting *Drepanepteryx phalaenoides* in Surrey (Morris and Hollier, *Ent. Rec.* **96**:55), I exhibited the specimen at a meeting of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. During the discussion that followed, Mr. Steve Church commented that he thought that he had seen this insect at his static Mercury Vapour light in Kings Park Wood. At that time, it was not possible to verify the report. However, in September 1984 I visited Mr. Church at his new home near Lurgashall and was shown an example of *D. phalaenoides* which had been taken a few days earlier at his static MV. trap. I was informed that this was the same species as that reported from Kings Park Wood.

There would, therefore, seem to be some evidence to support the suggestion that *D. phalaenoides* is indeed resident in southern England. I would like to thank Mr. Church for his records and suggestion that I report them. – R. K. A. MORRIS, 241 Commonside East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

THERA JUNIPERATA L.: JUNIPER CARPET IN KENT. – I took a specimen of this local moth here at light on 29th October 1984. – R. TAYLOR, 1 Tydeman Road, Bearsted, Maidstone.

EUPITHECIA DISTINCTARIA H.-S.: THYME PUG AND DEILEPTENIA RIBEATA CLERCK; SATIN BEAUTY AT GLENTRESS, PEEBLESHIRE. – I would like to record the capture of *Eupithecia distinctaria* H.-S. (one specimen on 6/7-7-83) and *Deileptenia ribeata* Clerck (one on 16/17-8-83) in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Glentress (Site No. 339, O.S. grid rif. N.T. 285 396). The identity of both specimens was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. So far as I know, neither of these species have previously been recorded for Peebleshire.

Thanks are extended to Mr. D. Solway who operates the trap at Glentress and Mr. B. Skinner for his helpful comments on the distribution of these two species. – A. M. RILEY, Entomology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

LASIOCAMPA TRIFOLII L. GRASS EGGAR IN SOMERSET. – As neither R. South (1980 edition) nor B. Skinner (1984) mention